

News Release

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For Immediate Release



Northeast Solar Starts Site Visits for Solarize Montague & Distributes Cost-Saving Info

Montague, MA— July 20, 2012—This week marks another step in the direction of solar becoming prevalent in the villages of Montague, through the Solarize Montague program. The program's solar installer, Northeast Solar Design Associates, visited several Montague homes to determine if they are good sites for solar power (also called photovoltaics or PV).

One of the first site assessments took place in Montague Center, at the home of Alejandro Levins. Levins explains why he went ahead with a site visit for PV: "I've been dragging my feet on getting PV, but when I heard about Solarize Montague, I decided that this was the time to act. Where else can I get a return of over 20% on my money?!"

In early April, Montague was selected by the Mass Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) as one of 17 Solarize Mass communities; each community, together with MassCEC and technical consultants, selects one solar installer. Montague chose Northeast Solar. To-date, about 120 residents and owners of businesses across the five villages of Montague have signed up for a free, no obligation site assessment to explore PV through this special, discounted program. Participants have until September 30th to sign a contract and take advantage of the PV prices that are well below the standard rate in Massachusetts.

To learn more about the Solarize Montague program, PV pricing, ownership options, and incentives, town residents and business owners can attend the free, *Solar 201* meeting on Tuesday, July 24th, from 7 PM to 8:15 PM, at the Turners Falls High School. They can also go to *Ask Solarize Montague* to talk with a representative from the Solarize Montague program (likely Greg Garrison, Northeast Solar's general manager), every other Tuesday evening starting August 7th, at the Turners Falls Safety Complex, from 6:30 PM to 8 PM.

Solarize Montague pricing information is now available online. You can download summaries of pricing that compare the standard PV pricing to the Solarize Montague pricing, show annual savings, and highlight the different ownership options (buying a PV system outright, purchasing it with financing, and leasing PV). The

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Ownership Options for Solar PV summary gives the up-front cost, after rebate cost, payback period, and net income from the system for someone buying PV. PV owners, even with full financing, may see net annual savings of hundreds of dollars. Solarize pricing may save a buyer between \$1,225 and \$4,900 on a typical residential system of 4.9 kilowatts compared to the standard market cost for PV. The summary gives annual financing costs and net income over 10 years and shows annual savings of \$87 to \$233 on yearly electricity costs for someone leasing a system. The savings go up for all participants as more people in town sign contracts for PV and the town reaches higher pricing tiers. The summaries, *Solarize Ownership Options* and *Solarize Cost Savings Basics*, are available from the Solarize link on the Montague Energy Committee's web page: http://www.montague.net/Pages/MontagueMA_Energy/Links.

The Tiered Pricing Matrix on Northeast Solar's Solarize Montague page [<http://www.northeastsolar.biz/montague/tieredpricingmatrix.html>] provides more detailed cost information that can be tailored to the electric usage of a building owner. Enter your typical monthly electric bill cost on the pull down menu at the top of the web page, and the matrix gives costs and savings based on that usage that includes more specific information on rebates, tax credits, and more.

The website, <http://www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague>, has calendar of Solarize Montague events and meetings such as *Solar 201* and *Ask Solarize Montague*, along with a link and contact information for Northeast Solar for setting up a free site visit for PV, a link to more information on the Solarize Montague Energy Committee web page, and a link to the town's Community Solar Coach, Sally Pick, who can answer questions about the program.

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Solarize Montague:

Solarize Mass Montague web page & calendar: <http://www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague>

Solarize PV installer: <http://www.northeastsolar.biz/montague.html>

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/EnergyCommitteeMontague

E-mail: MontagueEnergyCommittee@gmail.com

Community Solar Coach: Sally Pick, 413-559-7257

Mass Clean Energy Center:

Web page about solar: <http://www.MassCEC.com/AboutSolar>

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